



CARE OF MINORS IN THE FIELD

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for EMS personnel for treatment and/or transport of minors in the field.

AUTHORITY

California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 625, Civil Code, sections 25, 34, and 62

DEFINITIONS

Consent: Except for circumstances specifically prescribed by law, a minor is not legally competent to consent to, or refuse medical care.

Voluntary consent: Treatment and/or transport of a minor shall be with the verbal or written consent of the parent or legal representative.

Involuntary consent: In the absence of a parent or legal representative, emergency treatment and/or transport may be initiated without consent.

Minor: Any person under eighteen (18) years of age.

Minor not requiring parental consent: A person who is decreed by the court as an emancipated minor, has a medical emergency and parent is not available, is married or previously married, is on active duty in the military, is pregnant and requires care related to the pregnancy, is twelve (12) years or older and in need of care for rape and/or sexual assault, is twelve (12) years or older and in need of care for a contagious reportable disease or condition, or for substance abuse.

Legal Representative: A person who is granted custody or conservatorship of another person.

Emergency: An unforeseen condition or situation in which the individual has need for immediate medical attention, or where the potential for immediate medical attention is perceived by EMS personnel or a public safety agency

PROCEDURE

Treatment and/or Transport of Minor

1. For all ill or injured minors under the age of nine (9) years, Base Station contact is required before leaving scene.
2. In the absence of a parent or legal representative, minors with an emergency condition shall be treated and transported to the medical facility most appropriate to the needs of the patient.
3. In the absence of a parent or legal representative, minors with a non-emergency condition require EMS personnel to make reasonable effort to contact a parent or legal representative before initiating treatment and/or transport. If a parent or legal representative cannot be reached and minor is transported, EMS personnel shall make every effort to inform the parent or legal representative of where the minor has been transported, and request that law enforcement accompany the minor patient to the hospital.

Minor Not Requiring Immediate Treatment and/or Transport

1. A minor evaluated by EMS personnel and determined not to be injured, to have sustained only minor injuries, or to have an illness or injury not requiring immediate treatment and/or transportation, may be released to:
 - a. Parent or legal representative.
 - b. Designated care giver over eighteen (18) years of age.
 - c. Law Enforcement.
2. EMS personnel shall document on the patient care record to whom the minor was released.

Minor Attempting to Refuse Indicated Care

1. Contact Base Station.
2. Attempt to contact parent or legal representative for permission to treat and/or transport.
3. Contact Law Enforcement and request minor to be taken into temporary custody for treatment and/or transport (only necessary in the event parents or legal representative cannot be contacted).